

# news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

## 1 Boy King

The ancient Egyptian ruler King Tutankhamen (“King Tut”) became the leader of the northern African kingdom when he was only nine years old. He ruled for less than 10 years before dying. Archaeologists and historians have long speculated about what caused his death, and some people even suggested he was murdered. Now a new, technologically advanced study of his mummy’s DNA indicates that he died from complications of a broken leg and from the disease malaria. If you became the leader of the United States today, how would you rule? Pick an issue making news, and think about how, as head of the country, you would resolve it. Write a letter to President Obama explaining what you came up with.

Learning Standards: Stating an issue clearly as a question of public policy; tracing the origins of the issue, analyzing various perspectives people bring to the issue and evaluating possible ways to resolve the issue; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

## 2 Canada

The 2010 Winter Olympics are continuing this week in Vancouver, Canada. Vancouver was just named the most live-able city in the world by the Economist Intelligence Unit, which rated cities on 30 factors, including culture, environment, education, safety and health care. Pick five cities mentioned in the eEdition and come up with 10 different factors on which to compare them. Use the eEdition and online resources to research the cities and create a chart comparing them. Based on your chart, decide which of the five cities you’d most like to live in. Write a paragraph explaining why.

Learning Standards: Using traditional and electronic means to organize social science information to make maps, graphs, charts and tables; locating and describing the diverse places, cultures and communities of major world regions.

## 3 Ode

The British poet John Keats died on February 23, 1821. He was only 25 years old, but his work was impressive enough to still be studied today. Keats is best known for his odes, a type of poem that expresses the poet’s emotion on a particular subject, such as truth or love. Read odes in books or online. Then write your own ode based on something in the eEdition.

Learning Standards: Describing and using characteristics of various narrative genres and elements of narrative technique to convey ideas and perspectives; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

## 4 Flying

Movie director Kevin Smith was thrown off a Southwest Airlines flight for being too fat. Southwest said that Smith was a safety risk because he couldn’t put down his seat’s armrest. Smith had originally purchased two seats for himself on a Southwest flight, but when he decided to switch to an earlier flight only one seat was available. In groups, use the eEdition, books and online sources to create a pamphlet about ways being overweight can be unhealthy or negatively affect a person’s life.

Learning Standard: Focusing on meaning and communication while listening, speaking, viewing, reading and writing in personal, social, occupational and civic contexts.

## 5 Signal Words

The electronic edition of the eEdition can be a great tool for improving reading comprehension. This not only will help you in school but on state tests and job applications. As you read, it is important to recognize “signal words” that give clues that something that follows is important.

Words like “furthermore,” “besides,” “in addition,” “specifically” and “finally” do this. Other words tell you that you are going to hear an opposite view next – “however,” “yet,” “still,” “instead” and “even though” are examples. Use the search function of your eEdition to see which signal words are used most often in the news and opinion stories in the eEdition. Search for those listed above for a week and chart the results.

Learning Standards: Using prescribed technology tools for data collection and analysis; locating information from electronic resources; using charts and graphs to organize information.

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